

# Hawaii MARINE

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## 1/12 Marine Awarded Silver Star



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

1st Lt. Stephen Boada, fire direction officer, 1/12, receives a silver star, Wednesday morning for his actions in Afghanistan. Boada was assigned to 3/3 during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom when his convoy of Marines came under attack. A detailed account of Boada's actions will appear in next week's edition of Hawaii Marine.

## 1/3 Marine dies after firefight

Louisiana Native 'died a hero'

**Sgt. Joe Lindsay**

*Combat Correspondent*

**ASADABAD, Afghanistan** — Lance Cpl. Billy Brixey Jr., 21, a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, motor transportation mechanic from Vidalia, La., died Jan. 27 in Germany, two days after being seriously wounded in an insurgent attack on his convoy Jan. 25 in the often treacherous back country of Kunar Province in eastern Afghanistan.

Brixey was stabilized at the scene before being airlifted from the battle site and transported to Camp Wright in Asadabad with wounds and multiple fractures to both legs, according to Navy Lt. Brandon Rodriguez, battalion physician, 1/3. Following surgery, Brixey was airlifted to Bagram Airfield for further care before being sent to Germany, where he passed away as a result of his wounds, noted Rodriguez.

"It is a testament to his strength that he made it as long as he did," said Rodriguez, a native of Lakeland, Fla., who assisted in the emergency surgery at Camp Wright. "He was tough. He was a fighter. I, along with all the Marines he served with, am deeply saddened at this tremendous loss."

Frost was subsequently wounded by an enemy small-arms round in the resulting firefight. No other Marines were wounded in the exchange. Casualty reports on the enemy insurgents were unable to be confirmed, noted Frost.

"During the battle, Lance Corporal Brixey kept his head in the game the entire time," said Frost, a native of Zeeland, Mich. "He was remarkably calm and held himself in a very courageous way."

"Every Marine in the fight, every one of us, our concern was with Lance Corporal Brixey," continued Frost. "It's a crying shame that he died. We were all praying for him every day hoping that he'd make it. One thing I would like to say is that I can't imagine a man handling the situation he was in with more honor and bravery than he exhibited. He died a hero. He is someone all Marines should look up to. I know I do. The courage he displayed was



Sgt. Christopher Rivera

**Lance Cpl. Billy Brixey Jr., a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment motor transportation mechanic from Vidalia, La., poses for a photo at Camp Blessing, Afghanistan, shortly before his convoy was attacked in the Kunar Province of eastern Afghanistan. Brixey died two days later in Germany Jan. 27 as a result of the wounds he suffered in the attack.**

inspiring to me and all the Marines who were there."

"It was a quick and complete evolution from incident to retrieval to surgery," said Chief Petty Officer Claude English, 1/3 enlisted senior medical department representative and New Orleans native with strong family ties to Groton, Conn., and Pensacola, Fla. "Most impressive by far, however, was the young Marine himself. Brixey was tough, brave and a true Marine throughout. I can't say enough about him."

When news of Brixey's death reached the Marines and Sailors in Afghanistan, a solemn cloud seemed to hang in the air.

"The Brixey's raised a fine young man," said Pfc. Arthur Reynolds Jr., a 1/3 field wireman and Quick Reaction Force team member from Attalla, Ala. "He was a great guy, and more than that, he was my friend. Lance Corporal Brixey always gave 110 percent in everything he did. He'd do somersaults for his Marines."

"The insurgents are nothing but cowards," added Reynolds, fighting back emotion upon receiving the news about Brixey. "A lot of them aren't even Afghan. They come here from other countries and terrorize the local population and intimidate them through violence. Well, Marines can't be intimidated. All the hurt and emotion we're feeling about Lance Corporal Brixey, we're just

*See Firefight, A-6*

## Ceremony in memory of those who gave their lives



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Marines kneel down before boots, an inverted rifle, kevlar and dog tags, in remembrance of one of their fellow Marines whose life was cut short during their deployment to Afghanistan where they were deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A memorial ceremony was held to honor the lives and sacrifices of four Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Echo Company, Tuesday, at the Pacific War Memorial.

## Fallen from 2/3 honored

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**

*Combat Correspondent*

A memorial ceremony was held at the Pacific War Memorial here Tuesday in honor of four Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

Lance Corporals Phillip C. George, Steven A. Valdez, Kevin B. Joyce and Ryan J. Nass all served with 2/3 during a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"These young men are the greatest of their generation, enlisting after September 11, they knew they would be going into harm's way," said Sgt. Maj. Robert J. LaFleur, 2/3 sergeant major.

"They answered the call to duty and paid the ultimate price to assist the people of Afghanistan in their quest for freedom."

The memorial ceremony included an opening prayer, posting of the colors, eulogies from fellow Marines, and a final roll call by LaFleur. Lt Col. James E. Donnellan, commanding officer, 2/3, also made comments about the fallen Marines.

"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived," said Donnellan, repeating a quote by the late Army Gen. George S. Patton.

The family members and friends of the fallen Marines joined in remember-

*"They answered the call to duty and paid the ultimate price to assist the people of Afghanistan in their quest for freedom."*

ing the happier times. Tears of joy and sadness streamed from many faces as memories of the four men were shared.

The 2/3 Marines presented the families with quilts and books signed by the fellow members of the battalion.

"It was our honor and privilege to host the families of our fallen brothers,"

*See Memorial, A-6*

## 1/12 returns from a 7-month deployment

### Marines Focus on Training for Longer Than Expected

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**

*Combat Correspondent*

Marines with Bravo and Headquarters Batteries, 1st Battalion 12th Marine Regiment, returned home Jan. 26, after a nearly seven-month deployment to Okinawa, Japan.

More than 100 Marines set out for Japan in July 2005, in order to participate in a six-month training exercise that turned out to take nearly a month longer than planned.

In order to comply with the unit deployment program scheduled date of departure to Okinawa, the 1/12 Marines extended their time overseas, explained 1st Lt. Charles A. Mallette, executive officer, Bravo Battery, 1/12.

Throughout that duration, they participated in training in other areas of Japan such as Yausubetsu as well as an unscheduled four-week stop at Sasebo Naval Base.

"We were forced to alter our training due to the typhoon," explained Sgt. Damon L. Davoren, artillery cannoneer, section chief,

Bravo Battery, 1/12. "We were

Stuck for four weeks in Sasebo, during our trip to Fuji, so we focused on training classes and cross training."

Although the training had to be altered and not all the Marines made it to Fuji, Davoren insisted their objective was accomplished and upon their return home, many of the Marines felt the UDP was a successful venture.

"The hardest thing for me was leaving my wife and child," said the father of 11-month-old Damari. "Seeing them when I got back was great. But it was also a good feeling to know that we had fulfilled our main objective in Japan."

"Conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq often cause many to overlook the sacrifice of those members deployed elsewhere in the globe," explained a letter to the families of Bravo Battery, written by Mallette.

Mallette also wrote, "A great time was had by all at the welcome home, and at the end of the day just being back in Hawaii was enough."



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Cpl. Justin Smith, motor transportation operator, Bravo Battery, 1/12, gazes at his baby, Jaelynn, with his wife, Janice, who welcomed him home with an array of colorful leis. Smith returned home Jan. 26, after participating in a seven-month deployment to Okinawa, Japan, with his unit.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Free Flu Shots and Education

Tripler Army Medical Center's Preventive Medicine and Army Public Health Nursing Departments along with tri-service clinicians are providing Pandemic Influenza Education and free flu shots to eligible military beneficiaries around Oahu.

Public health events are scheduled at military installations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, as listed below:

- Feb. 4: Fort Shafter Base Exchange
- Feb. 5: Hickam Air Force Base Exchange
- Feb. 11: Marine Corps Base Hawaii Exchange.
- Feb. 12: Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor

The Army, Navy and Air Force providers manning the information tables encourage people to stop by and talk with them. What you learn may save your life.

## Base Pool Closed for Improvements

The Kaneohe Base Pool will be closed for improvements beginning Monday and will reopen in March. Camp Smith and Manana Housing pools are still open during regular business hours. For more information, call 254-7655.

## Art Auction

There will be an All Hands Art Auction Feb. 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. at The Officers' Club. For information and tickets, contact KOSC at kosc\_mcbh@yahoo.com.

## Gas Lane Closures

A gas station canopy project has been underway since Nov. 7 and is slated to take six to seven months to complete, after construction begins. The canopy will be built in phases, which means that half of the gasoline pumps will be unavailable for consumer use at any given time.

For questions concerning this project, call George Kelsey, MCCA, 254-7689 or Ken Takeya, MCCA, 254-7539.

## Survey Participation Requested

The Department of Defense Inspector General is conducting a Trafficking in Persons survey through March 31. They are requesting maximum participation from all active duty service members, civilian Marines and contractors. We encourage all to log on and take the first part of the survey, which contains 22 questions that should take only a few minutes to complete.

To access the survey, log on to [www.dodig.mil/tip%20survey/survey.htm](http://www.dodig.mil/tip%20survey/survey.htm). A password is not required.

## HI 5¢ Redemption Site

HI 5¢ redemption services are available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday in the parking lot across from the PX Annex. Separate glass, cans and plastic and remove lids before redeeming recyclables.

For more information, call Jim Sibert, Base Recycling at 257-4300.

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## Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110

# Hawaii MARINE

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# Children's Dental Health Month



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Brig. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, signs the proclamation for the 2006 National Children's Dental Health Month as Navy Lt. Jay Thompson (left) and Lt. Cmdr. Fran Tegasantos, Dental Health Month coordinators, 21st Dental Company, look on. Both Thompson and Tegasantos played big roles in this year's planning for Children's Dental Health Month activities. See page C1 for more information.

# Just another day at the office



Jen Neubert

A Marine from Regimental Schools rappels out the back of a helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 during training to become helicopter rope suspension team masters.

# Change of Command



WATSON



KREKEL

## Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24

Lt. Col. Robert Krekel will take command of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 from Lt. Col. Walter R. Watson today at 2 p.m. Krekel was most recently assigned as the Aircraft Maintenance Officer for the Aviation Logistics Division at Marine Forces Pacific. Watson is scheduled to be reassigned to Marine Forces Pacific at Camp H.M. Smith.

The change of command ceremony is scheduled to take place on the Kaneohe Bay-side of Hangar 102.

# Weekend weather outlook

## Today



**Day** — partly cloudy with scattered showers, northeast winds up to 10 mph, 50 percent chance of rain

**Night** — partly to mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers, northeast winds from 10 to 15 mph.

**High — 78**  
**Low — 69**

## Saturday



**Day** — partly cloudy in the morning, northeast winds from 10 to 15 mph.

**Night** — Mostly clear, light variable winds.

**High — 77**  
**Low — 69**

## Sunday



**Day** — partly cloudy to mostly cloudy, northeast winds at 10 to 20 mph.

**Night** — partly cloudy with isolated showers, east winds at 10 to 15 mph, 20 percent chance of rain

**High — 78**  
**Low — 67**



A military policeman explains the basics of the 50-caliber machine gun to a Combat Service Support Group 3 Marine prior to participating in a live-fire convoy exercise.

# Combat Service Support Group 3 conducts live-fire convoy exercise

**Story and Photos by Lance Cpl.  
Edward C. deBree**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, HAWAII** – Attacks from the enemy can occur at anytime while driving down the streets in a combat zone. Marines of Combat Service Support Group 3 are ready for such scenarios.

Marines of CSSG-3 participated in a live-fire convoy drill Jan. 15 as part of the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise which was conducted to prepare for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“The purpose of this training is to give the Marines experience for when they deploy to Iraq,” said 2nd Lt. Alan Cortes, platoon commander, Motor Transportation, CSSG-3. “This is for when they are over there they know exactly what to do.”

During the exercise, Marines received word that they were being hit from either side of the convoy and sprung into action.

“Today was a rehearsal for when we do use live ammunition,” said Cortes. “We received contact from the left, right and both sides in unblocked ambushes.”

When the Marines got word that they were being hit from either side, they applied the tactics of dismounting the vehicle, regrouping, breaking contact, and reforming the convoy.

“I think they did an awesome job,” said the 24-year-old Kingwood, Texas native. “They are not experts yet, but they are very close. This is as realistic as it can get. This is the first run-through that we had, and each day they will react quicker. They’re doing a great job, and the actual live fire will go very well.”

The security portion of the convoy was provided by CSSG-3 military police, it’s something that they had been training to do for several days.

“We provided convoy security for India Company for over 24 hours,” said Staff Sgt. Michael J. Wilding, security element leader, Headquarters Company. “We’ve been embedded with the ‘grunts,’ providing security for their convoys for the past couple of days, and we’re about to go back with them for a week. Our lieutenant thinks that all military police should be field military police.”

The 41-year-old Youngstown, Ohio native went on to say that he is looking forward to the scheduled opportunity for the 3rd Marine Division commanding general to see his Marines’ work in the field.

“I want to show that the Marines are very well capable to work in the field,” said Wilding. “Our lieutenant is a prior-enlisted grunt, and he’s showing us everything there is to know about working with and being grunts in the field.”

The CSSG-3 Marines are training to support Marines of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, who will deploy to Iraq later this year.



Combat Service Support Group 3 Marines take position along the side of the road to provide security for a convoy during a rehearsal for a live-fire convoy drill. The Marines took part in the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise to prepare for their deployment to Iraq later this year.



Combat Service Support Group 3 Marines are briefed prior to conducting a live-fire convoy drill Jan. 15 during the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise at the Pohakuloa Training Area.

On the skyline ... with 1/3 by Sgt. Joe Lindsay

On the Skyline is a weekly column written by Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Combat Correspondent Sgt. Joe Lindsay, who is deployed to Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's Lava Dogs in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Warrior poet

Sgt. Joe Lindsay  
Combat Correspondent

**J A L A L A B A D , Afghanistan** – In the tradition of Walt Whitman, the 19th century poet who chronicled many of his most legendary prose in the violent shadow cast by the Civil War, there comes a Marine rifleman who has also seen his fair share of carnage on the 21st century battlefield.

Sgt. Jason Zoesch, a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment rifleman currently serving as a watch noncommissioned officer at Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan, where he is supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, is an Iraq veteran who fought on the bloody streets of Fallujah, Iraq, during some of the fiercest fighting of the war. He is also a poet.

Zoesch, from Portland, Ore., estimates he has written more than 4,000 poems over the course of his life.

“Poetry is my release,” said Zoesch, as he put down a book of short stories by Mark Twain he had been reading during one of the short moments of downtime he has had in Afghanistan since arriving in country last month. “Some people like to have a drink after a hard day, or watch television, or whatever it is they may do. For me, it’s always been to put a pen to paper.”

And while he is no stranger to both giving and carrying out orders on fields of fire, it was an order from his wife, Valouny, that finally led Zoesch to submit one of his poems for publication.

The poem, “Untwist Him From Our Soul,” was quickly selected for publication in the American Legion of Poets 2005 Anthology.

“The anthology is due out this month,” said Zoesch, who studied creative writing at Portland State University under noted poet and professor Henry Carlile before spending his college sophomore year abroad at Waseda University in Tokyo and joining the Marine Corps in 1999. “I’ve always been pretty private about my poetry, but when my wife gives an order, I follow it. She basically told me that I needed to put my work and myself out there.”

Zoesch credits his wife with getting him over his fears of exposing his most intimate thoughts, feelings and dreams.

“Poetry is how I deal with things,” said Zoesch. “It is how I cope with life and work things through. It’s also been a tool I’ve used to manage stress throughout my life, and it’s just something I’m very comfortable with. When I say comfortable, I mean the comfort in the writing of poetry,

not in the sharing of it with other people. It was a long time before I felt I could even show my wife my work, much less the entire world.”

Zoesch’s quick success with getting his first submission published has given him a new perspective on his previously private writings.

“I feel like jumping that first hurdle of actually making the decision to submit one of my poems has given me a different outlook,” commented Zoesch. “I’ve started organizing my work, and I would like to get an entire book of my poems published when I get back from deployment. Having served in Iraq — and now Afghanistan — I’ve seen firsthand how quickly life can be taken away from us.”

“I’ve had friends die,” continued Zoesch. “I could just as easily have died many different times, and besides my wonderful wife and two beautiful kids – Khylia, 3, and Khonner, 1 – all I’d have to show for it is a dusty trunk filled with old poems. Having seen war, it makes you realize there’s nothing that you ever have to really fear again, nothing you can’t accomplish, and nothing you can’t face, because you’ve already faced the toughest challenge of your life by being in battle. Combat has a way of paradoxically taking fear away.”

With that newfound confidence, Zoesch said that in the future, he would also like to tackle the challenge of writing novels.

“Making it financially as a novelist isn’t a likely scenario for anyone, no matter how good a writer they are,” said Zoesch. “I’ve got a wife and kids to feed, so after my Marine Corps career, I would still most likely need to work to support them.”

Which is why Zoesch said he recently changed his major from creative writing to psychology.

“I’m in the process of completing my bachelor’s at Chaminade University,” said Zoesch, a 1998 graduate of Marshall High School in Portland. “I’d like to get into the counseling field, specifically so I can help veterans who might be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. I think I would have something positive to offer them.”

For the present, Zoesch spends his time supporting the Marine Corps mission in Afghanistan.

“The op (operations) tempo here is extremely high, and there’s not much downtime here,” commented Zoesch. “Sleep is precious, because no one gets much of it, but a few minutes before I try to get some much-needed sleep, I’ll write down a few thoughts of the day and then rack out before waking up and hitting the mission again.

“I’m very proud to be serving with 1/3 in Afghanistan,” continued Zoesch. “I was proud of the job the Lava Dogs did in Iraq, specifically in Fallujah, and they are doing good things here as well.”

According to the Marines who work with him, Zoesch is also doing good things.

“He’s a good Marine,” said Gunnery Sgt. Donald Vollmer, a 1/3 assistant operations chief and Gulf War veteran from Albany, Ore. “He’s got initiative and drive, and he knows the importance of mission accomplishment. As far as his writing, I’d just also like to say how impressed I am by him having his poetry accepted for publication. What a tremendous accomplishment.”

Staff Sgt. Ralph Scott, a 1/3 assistant operations chief and Iraq veteran from Tallahassee, Fla., spoke of Zoesch getting his poem published in a similar vein.

“Awesome!” exclaimed Scott when he heard the news. “I’m happy for him. It makes me feel good when Marines accomplish good things. He’s a very talented young man.”

Lance Cpl. Matthew Morton, a 1/3 rifleman by trade, currently holding the billet of operations clerk, said Zoesch is someone he can always turn to for advice.

“He’s the type of NCO that leads by example,” said the Iraq veteran and Wichita, Kan., native. “He never tells a Marine to do something that he wouldn’t do himself, and all his Marines respect him for that. He helps Marines with any problems they might have, whether it be mission related or personal. He is always accessible to his Marines. He’s nice and mean at the same time, but I guess you could say that about most Marines. What I mean is, with Sergeant Zoesch, he’s got a hard side and a not so hard side, and he knows which side to show in any given situation.

“If the situation is right, sometimes his Marines bug him and ask him to write poems for us so we can send them to our wives or girlfriends and pretend they are from us,” laughed Morton. “Or, other times we’ll say stuff to him like, ‘I’m a poet don’t cha know it,’ and stuff like that. He’s a pretty good sport about it, but he still hasn’t written any poems for us to send to our wives or girlfriends, yet. Just as well, my wife would probably know something was up.”

For his part, Zoesch said



Sgt. Jason Zoesch, a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, rifleman currently serving as a watch noncommissioned officer at Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan reads a collection of short stories by Mark Twain during a moments of downtime. Sgt. Zoesch, a native of Portland, Ore., estimates he has written more than 4,000 poems.

Untwist Him From Our Soul  
A poem by Jason Zoesch

We live for words wishing to speak to those we know.  
I cry at night, those I talk to have not understood.

We lead silent lives, feelings we never show.  
We want to be close so why must close come so slow?  
I recall things unsaid, wishing now that somehow I could.  
We live for words wishing to speak to those we know.

A voice holds many fortunes we need just let them glow,  
let’s forget to forget what we ought to or should,  
we lead silent lives, feelings we never show.

An old man dies and with him his thoughts will go,  
we grieve not for the dead but for what wasn’t said,  
living for words and wishing to speak to those we know.

A miser is a lonely man shall we untwist him from our soul?  
So that maybe one day love we could, love we would,  
not leading silent lives feelings we ought show.

Yet we don’t forever writing ourselves as strangers. Alone  
we pretend together hearing only through a thickhead,  
living for words and wishing to speak to those we know,  
leading silent lives feelings we never show.

the good-natured ribbings are something that he can laugh along with.

“I guess it is all part of me being more comfortable in my own skin — more comfortable with me sharing the fact that I’m a writer,” said Zoesch. “It’s all been part of a long process. I feel good about where I’m at in life.”

The hardest part of his life, according to Zoesch, however,

is being separated from his wife and children for long stretches at a time.

“Like I said, I’m glad I served in Iraq, and I’m happy to be here in Afghanistan, but I still miss my family,” said Zoesch. “It is a sacrifice I gladly make to serve my country and to help the people in this part of the world have a better life and also to ensure that my family can continue to live in freedom.

“I try to call or e-mail home at least once a week if I can, but before I left I gave my little girl, Khylia, a stuffed teddy bear,” continued Zoesch as he reflectively looked off to the side, seemingly conjuring up images of his daughter back home. “I told her to kiss that teddy bear any time she’s missing daddy. My wife says she’s been kissing that teddy bear a lot.”



USMC Photos

A trio of recruits run through an obstacle course at Montford Point. The Marine Corps began enlisting African Americans June 1, 1942. The first class of 1,200 recruits started their training three months later with the the 51st Composite Defense Battalion at Montford Point, a section of Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, N.C.

## African American contributions recognized

**Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree**

*Combat Correspondent*

This year marks the 30th year that February has been marked as African-American History Month. Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the month in 1926,when it was only a weeklong celebration known as National Negro Week, according to Master Sgt. Milton D. White, Base Equal Opportunity advisor.

Woodson created the observance month in order to remind Americans of the contributions African-Americans have made to the United States of America.

On June 25, 1941, the Marine Corps officially allowed African-Americans to

join as ordered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The first African-American to join the Corps was Howard P. Perry, but at the time African-Americans were segregated from the other races in the Corps. Today Marines of all races serve together in the Corps.

MARADMIN 019/06 states that African-Americans have displayed a high level of loyalty, professionalism, and esprit de corps, contributing to the heritage of the Corps, country and community.

The month is a great opportunity for everyone to learn about the culture and history of African-Americans, said White.

“The Marines should really not concentrate on the African-Americans in the

Marine Corps,” said the 40-year-old Columbia, N.C. native. “We should concentrate more on the contributions African-Americans made to the country as a whole.

“I think that it is important to let everyone learn about other cultures,” said White. “This month is a time for learning, so we can learn about another culture. We need to know as much about other cultures as we can, in order to bring us all together as a whole.”

During the month, visual displays will be set up around the base and Camp Smith. A special luncheon is scheduled for Feb. 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Anderson Hall. The guest speaker will be retired Sgt. Maj. John T. Turner.



Howard P. Perry, the first African-American Marine.

## Savings Deposit Program offered for Marines deployed to combat

**Finance Office Staff**

*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

The Savings Deposit Program is a savings program for Marines deployed to combat zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Marines who are deployed at least 30 days and receive combat zone tax exclusion or imminent danger pay are entitled to participate in the SDP.

The benefit of the SDP: The funds deposited earn interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum, compounded quarterly on the average amount of the deposit amount of less than \$10,000. Once \$10,000 is on deposit, simple interest will be computed on the \$10,000. No interest is paid on any amounts in excess of \$10,000.

For example: The first month 1/12 of 10 percent (.00833) is paid on the deposited amount. The second month 2/12 of 10 percent (.01667) is paid on the deposited amount. The third month 3/12 of 10 percent (.025) is paid on the deposited

amount. This computation continues until 10 percent is reached on the 12th month of deployment. Interest will only accrue 90 days after departing the deployed area for which qualifications and deposits were met.

All or part of the pay entitlements, minus the Marine’s deductions, are eligible to be deposited into the SDP.

A Marine may begin the deposits by starting a “J” allotment at the administration section. A Marine may also authorize, with a power of attorney, an agent to make deposits at the local Finance/Disbursing office while the Marine is deployed.

Again, interest stops accruing in your account after 90 days, upon return from deployment. Once the Marine returns from deployment, he or she must contact the unit’s administration sec-

tion to stop the “J” allotment. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is also notified when your combat zone tax exclusion stops and DFAS flags the Marine’s account, identifying that he or she no longer qualifies to participate in the SDP.

In order to have funds and interest returned, the Marine must individually contact DFAS in one of the following manners:

1. Contact DFAS Cleveland DSN 465-7011 or (816) 926-7011
2. Send official electronic mail to [ckccashdepositprogram@dfas.mil](mailto:ckccashdepositprogram@dfas.mil). Fax DSN 580-5060 or (216) 522-5060

Questions concerning the SDP may also be directed to the base Finance Office located at Building. 216, room 82. The telephone number is 257- 7751/7771.

## MCBH hosts Hawaii National Guard

### Airmen train with Arizona National Guard to improve marksmanship

**Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino**

*Combat Correspondent*

The Marine Corps recently found another way to play a role in the the war on terror. The rifle and pistol ranges on Kaneohe Bay’s Ulupa’u Crater became a training ground for the Hawaii National Guard Jan. 27 to Feb. 1.

Soldiers and airmen from various units assigned to the Hawaii National Guard, and members of the Small Arms Readiness Training Branch of the Arizona National Guard trained at K-9 Range here for a five-day training event to pro-

mote and improve marksmanship among it’s members.

“This training is to increase our ability to shoot weapons, said Air Force Col. Richard Ando, Marksmanship officer-in-charge, Hawaii Air National Guard. “With our reserve units rotating in and out of combat zones more frequently, we need to provide more opportunities for them to fire.”

Members of the Arizona National Guard’s Small Arms Readiness Training Branch, which is comprised of 27 volunteer members from the Army Guard, Air Guard and

Navy Seabees flew to Hawaii to assist the Hawaii National Guard with this small-arms training exercise and to help them rebuild their shooting program, according to Air Force Staff Sgt. Clifford Ramson, Hawaii State Marksmanship Team member, Hawaii Air National Guard.

“Arizona has a very active shooting program that works like a well-oiled machine,” said Ramson.

With guidance from Arizona’s SARTB and from various firing positions, the

*See ANG, A-6*

# Marine ‘always gave 110 percent’

## Firefight, From A-1

going to channel that energy and use it to get the cowards who did this, along with all the other insurgents who murder innocent locals for nothing more than wanting to be free.”

Other Marines who served with Brixey spoke of him in the highest of terms.

“Lance Corporal Brixey was my bunk mate in California on our predeployment training exercises in Bridgeport and Twentynine Palms,” said Staff Sgt. Donald Pastorcich, staff noncommissioned officer in charge for 1/3’s Deployed Unit Support Team. “He was a jokester who always had a smile on his face and who brought smiles to the faces of the other Marines when he was around them.”

“But his sense of humor belied an inner strength and



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

**Lance Cpl. Sean McDaniel, a 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, rifleman and Quick Reaction Force team member from Tucson, Ariz., waits for instructions aboard Camp Wright in Asadabad, Afghanistan, after a Marine convoy came under an insurgent attack. A Blackhawk helicopter with the 1042nd MEDEVAC Company, Oregon National Guard, can be seen in the background departing for the scene.**

confidence that made him, even at his present rank, a leader of Marines,” continued Pastorcich, a native of Cleveland. “Whatever he did, he did it to the max. Whether

he was playing basketball or football after a hard day’s work or attacking the mission he was given by his superiors, he always gave his best. It’s very surreal for me now that

he’s gone. I will keep his memories with me as long as I live. I will never forget Lance Corporal Brixey – the type of man he was, the type of Marine he was, the type of

person he was.”

According to 1st Lt. Jeremy Clevenger, DUST officer-in-charge, news of Brixey’s death has hit his fellow Marines hard.

## Memorial, From A-1

said LaFleur, “They will have great memories from their visit and the memorial service.”

George was born in Houston, Texas, Sept. 3, 1982. After enlisting in the Marine Corps Dec. 10, 2002, he left for Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and graduated recruit training April 11, 2003. Upon completion of the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, Calif., he gained the title of rifleman and joined 2/3’s Echo Company.

George is survived by his father, Carson George; mother, Penny George; sisters, Sara and Dawn; and brother, Aaron.

Valdez was born July 19, 1985, in Bebe, Ark. He graduated from MCRD San Diego,

June 21, 2004. Valdez reported to 2/3 Nov. 24, 2004 and was assigned to Echo Company.

Valdez joined the Marine Corps along with his brother who recently completed a tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Valdez is survived by his mother, Billide; brothers, Bobby and Glenn; and grandfather, Billy.

Joyce was born in Gallup, N.M., May 26, 1986. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Dec. 1, 2003, and reported to MCRD San Diego, May 24, 2004. Upon completion of School of Infantry, Joyce was assigned to 2/3’s Echo Company as a basic rifleman.

Joyce is survived by his mother Effelita; sister, Michelle; brother, Nathan; and grandfather, Dan.

Nass was born Aug. 26,

1984, in Milwaukee, Wis. He joined the Marine Corps Jan. 22, 2003. After graduating SOI July 2, 2003, he reported to 2/3’s Echo Company July 4, 2003.

Nass is survived by his father, John Nass and his brother.

“Second Battalion, 3rd Marines performed superbly during Operation Enduring Freedom – enduring extreme weather, rugged terrain and a determined enemy,” aid LaFleur in regard to the 2/3 Marines. “We were able to support the first national elections in Afghanistan and persevere and excel in accomplishing our mission.”

## ANG, From A-5

Hawaii National Guard members practiced firing at silhouette targets from 200-, 300-, and 500-yard distances with the M-16 A2. They also worked on shooting the M-9 pistol during the event. Participants also trained in nuclear, biological and chemical warfare scenarios by firing their weapons while wearing NBC gear.

This is a joint-service program that promotes marksmanship fundamentals in the National Guard and makes them better soldiers and airmen, according to Army Maj. Herman Schiller, Arizona state

marksmanship coordinator.

“You just don’t pick up an M-16 and know how to use it,” said Schiller.

The Hawaii National Guard said they want to take their shooting program to a higher level so they are more effective in combat, according to Ando.

“We want to develop a corps of experienced shooters by getting people more interested in shooting,” said Ando.

Both the Hawaii National Guard and Arizona National Guard were thankful for the opportunity K-Bay provided for them by allowing them to utilize the range, according to Air Force Capt. Henry

“We are all mourning his loss right now,” said the Bradley, Ill., native, “but the best way to preserve his legacy is to continue with the mission that Lance Corporal Brixey set out to do. He believed in what he was doing, and he died so that others could live free. We’re proud of him and we’re going to continue the fight.”

Capt. Ty Barger, 1/3 Headquarters and Support Company commander, spoke of Brixey in a similar vein.

“Lance Corporal Brixey was a confident Marine and a strong-willed man,” said the Lincoln, Neb., native. “He was respected both professionally and personally equally by his peers, subordinates and superiors. I am proud to be able to say I served with him. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and loved ones back in Louisiana.”

“All our thoughts and prayers are with Lance Corporal Brixey’s family,” added 1st Sgt. Gerard Calvin, 1/3 Charlie Company first sergeant.

“I would ask all the 1/3 family members back home to join myself and all the Marines serving in Afghanistan in our prayers for the family of this fine young Marine who gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He will not be forgotten.”

Kaufman, Hawaii Marksmanship Team captain.

“The Marine Corps Base has been really accommodating to us,” said Kaufman. “The support we got from the professional staff was really phenomenal. This is the best, most versatile range I’ve ever been on.”

